



File Code: 1950-1

Date: July 15, 2005

Dear Planning Participant,

I am pleased to announce the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Red Pines Project on the Red River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho. The Record of Decision will be released in the future. The document is also available at the Nez Perce National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/projects/#nepaprojects>.

The Forest Service has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) to disclose potential effects of the proposed action and the alternatives to the proposed action within and surrounding the Red Pines project area in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. This Final EIS discloses direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts and irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action and alternatives.

The Forest Service has identified Alternative E, as the preferred alternative.

Reviewers can provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, 45 days from the date the legal notice is published in the Lewiston Morning Tribune.

Comments on the Final EIS can be sent to the Red Pines Project, Nez Perce National Forest, 1005 Highway 13, Grangeville, ID 83530, or by facsimile (208) 983-4099, or hand-delivered between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Comments may be submitted electronically to the following e-mail address: comments-northern-nez-perce-red-river@fs.fed.us and must be in one of the following formats: MS Word, Word Perfect or RTF format. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

In accordance with 36 CFR 215, comments must be postmarked or received 45 days from the date the Legal Notice was published in the Lewiston Morning Tribune. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants following the future release of the Red Pines Record of Decision. For appeal eligibility, each individual, or representative from each organization, submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request.

Comments must be substantive and specific to the proposed activities and area being analyzed. They should include: (1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which the comment is being submitted; (3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider; and (4) signatures.



Comments received in response to this Final EIS request, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and, where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specific number of days.

Additional information is available from Project Leader Jennie Fischer of the Nez Perce Supervisors Office at the address or phone number above.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jane L. Cottrell
JANE L. COTTRELL
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: Red Pines FEIS Volume 1 and 2
FEIS Errata Sheet

cc: Terry Nevius
Jennie Fischer

